

ALGERIA IN REVOLT

GOVERNMENT IN TURMOIL AS MILLIONS TAKE TO THE STREETS >>PAGE 20

Socialist Worker

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TORIES ARE THE LIVING DEAD BEHEAD ZOMBIE REGIME



PALESTINE

Solidarity on the streets as Israel kills protesters

THOUSANDS OF people in Britain protested in solidarity with Palestinians as Israeli soldiers attacked a major demonstration at the fence between Gaza and Israel last Saturday.

Israeli soldiers attacked the demonstration with lethal force—killing four Palestinians.

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PRIVATISATION



How developers are segregating playgrounds

BEHIND A story about swings, slides and children lies a deeper scandal about how modern capitalism is stealing the ground from beneath our feet.

A scandal over access to a communal play area has raised wider questions about the ownership of public space.

>>Pages 10&11

JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

March demands justice for Kingsley Burrell

“WHO KILLED Kingsley Burrell? The police killed Kingsley Burrell!” rang out through the streets of Birmingham last Saturday.

Over 100 people gathered at the cemetery where Kingsley is buried on the eighth anniversary of his death.

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THE THINGS THEY SAY

'We want to treat colleagues with respect and courtesy and kindness'

Tory Home Office minister Victoria Atkins has an interesting view of her party

'No one wants an election and no one wants her to lead us into it'

One cabinet minister on rumours that Theresa May could call a snap general election

'We would be wiped out'

Tory MP Andrew Bridgen on his party's chances in a general election

'We have had a lot of patience but patience runs out'

European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker on Brexit

'Dark and truly perilous waters'

A Daily Mail newspaper editorial says derailing of Brexit is a threat to democracy

'MPs have mounted a coup against the government'

The Mail continues



Cops to investigate spooks' role in Guantanamo torture

POLICE HAVE launched an investigation into MI5 and MI6 officers involved in the interrogation of suspects under torture.

Initially the US said that Abu Zubaydah, a Saudi national held in Guantanamo Bay, was a key link between Iraq and Al Qaida. It wasn't true and the US no longer claim it.

Since 2006 he has been held in one of the most isolated sections of the detention camp in Cuba. He has been subjected to waterboarding at least 83 times during interrogations.

According to his torturers it left him "completely unresponsive, with bubbles rising through his open, full mouth". So they gave him "truth serums".

In what the CIA described as the "aggressive phase of interrogation", Abu Zubaydah was locked in a coffin sized box for 11 days.

He was then shut in a box measuring just 21 inches by two and a half feet for 29 hours.

At some point in his various interrogations he lost an eye.

FIVE FACTS

According to a parliamentary report

- 1 MI6 had "direct awareness of extreme mistreatment and possibly torture" of Abu Zubaydah. They asked him questions anyway.
- 2 British intelligence officers received information from a prisoner they knew was being mistreated 198 times.
- 3 MI5 or MI6 offered to fund at least three rendition operations.
- 4 Two MI6 officers consented to mistreatment.
- 5 In a further 13 cases, officers witnessed torture or mistreatment.



Abu Zubaydah

A report from MPs last year said, "The case of Abu Zubaydah shows direct awareness of extreme mistreatment and, probable torture."

"However, the Agencies MI5 and MI6 continued to send the CIA questions to be used in interrogations without seeking any assurances regarding Zubaydah's treatment in detention, until at least 2006."

Poland and Lithuania have both been ordered by the European Court of Human Rights to pay Zubaydah £86,000 each for their role in the torture.

He has not been charged by the US government with any offences and remains in detention.

MI6 and the domestic spies in MI5 were involved in hundreds of torture cases and dozens of rendition cases.

Labour and Tory governments repeatedly denied this and this police investigation only comes reluctantly after repeated calls from Abu Zubaydah's lawyers.

SARAH VINE complained last week that a protester had shouted "I hope you drop dead" at her husband, Michael Gove. In contrast Gilly Waddington, wife of the late former home secretary David Waddington, suggested to a noisy crowd outside her house that they march. She then joined the demo, leading chants of, "David Waddington is a bastard."



Waddington—Tory 'bastard'

A SECONDARY school has been criticised after it advertised for a "strong disciplinarian" to deliver "tough love" to pupils. The job post states that anyone who "wants to be every child's best friend" need not apply for the role. The full-time position is at Towers School in Kennington, Kent.

No room at refuges but 7 for trade envoy

TEN DOMESTIC abuse victims a day are turned away from women's refuges because there is no space.

An audit by Women's Aid discovered 3,605 were refused access to a refuge between 2017 and 2018, the equivalent to 69 a week.

The charity said many victims, often with children, are forced to sleep rough or return to abusers. Nearly one in ten refuges and a fifth of community based services said they had no council funding last year.

POOR Antony Phillipson, the trade commissioner



Antony Phillipson

for North America.

He needed somewhere to live in New York while he negotiates trade deals for us. So we bought him a new pad for £12 million. Troublemaker isn't Kirstie Allsopp, but that seems a lot. He gets panoramic views, a library, steam room, access to a pool, many bathrooms and a couple of dishwashers. But only seven bedrooms.

Parents skip meals as quarter of children hungry

CHILDREN ARE going hungry as free school meals are not offered to many whose parents are on a low income, a new study suggests.

A report for the Child Poverty Action Group indicated that even when youngsters receive free school meals, it might not be enough for their needs.

Researchers at University College London studied low income families in London and a south east seaside town, finding that around one in four children went hungry at times, despite sacrifices made by their parents.



No food for you child

Half of parents in the study did not eat enough food, skipped meals or used food banks.

Some children said there were rules on what was available for a free meal, which could make them feel embarrassed.

Half of teenagers surveyed said they did not have money to spend on food with their friends.

Viscount against fracking but for sand quarries

VISCOUNT Cowdray is the largest landowner in the South Downs and worth an estimated £238 million. He has submitted plans to turn two areas of his estate into a 185-acre industrial zone capable of extracting 2-4 million tonnes of sand for building materials.

In 2013 he opposed fracking just north of the estate. He railed against "the industrialisation of a very beautiful part of the world", and sided with "those who live, work in, or take recreation in the weald and downlands of the national park".

The proposed quarries lie on a patch of heath land and forest with protected birds and the like.

A boycott of the Cowdray Estate's farm shop has started.

The estate away from the sand mine bit includes a golf course and a polo club.

FIGURE IT OUT

£1.4 billion

The amount added to annual bills this week. National Price Hike Day on 1 April with energy, water, council tax and prescription charges all rising on average £117

38p

The increase in the hourly rate of the minimum wage

Cruel council demolish home

A COUNCIL has been criticised for ordering the demolition of a beach-side cabin built by a homeless man.

The wooden shack, which has a front door, window and a tarpaulin roof, as well as a flower garden outside, was built between two concrete walls on a seafront walk in Folkestone, Kent.

However, Folkestone & Hythe district council said that the shack was built on its property and have ordered the man to move out.

Officials placed a notice on the front door, addressed to "the unauthorised occupant, Temporary Structure, Marine Walk, Folkestone", ordering him to remove his belongings within a week.

The council said it plans to dismantle the shack.

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Solidarity on the streets as Israel kills protesters

by NICK CLARK

THOUSANDS OF people in Britain protested in solidarity with Palestinians as Israeli soldiers attacked a major demonstration at the fence between Gaza and Israel last Saturday.

At least 30,000 Palestinians marched on the Gaza fence. The demonstration marked a year since the start of the Great Return March—a campaign of weekly demonstrations demanding the right of return for Palestinian refugees.

Israel attacked the demonstration with lethal force—killing four Palestinians, three of them 17 years old. More than 200 protesters were injured.

People gathered across Britain in solidarity with the Palestinian demonstrations.

Protest organiser the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) said these took place in over 25 towns and cities.

PSC director Ben Jamal said the protests had been called to “answer the call from Palestine for global demonstrations today”.

Trapped

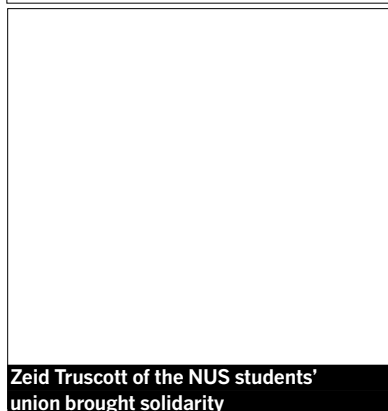
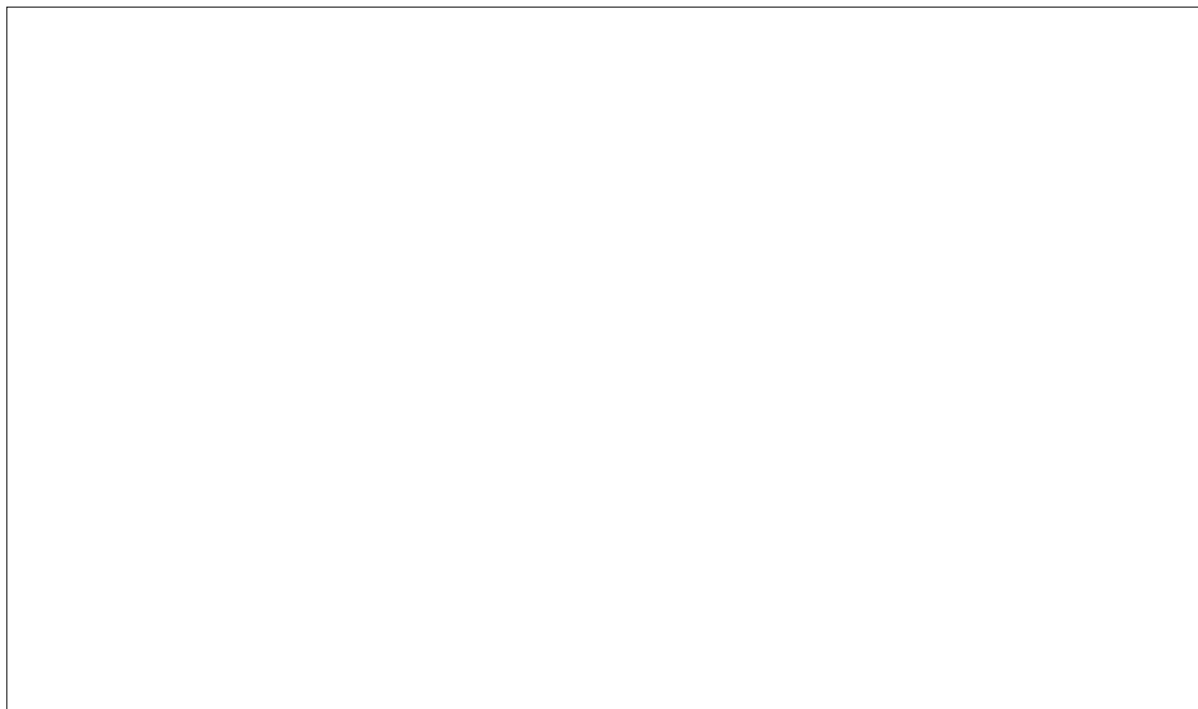
Protesters in Gaza are demanding an end to the siege that has trapped them in the Gaza Strip for more than 11 years.

Sharaf, a protester in London, said, “Gaza is a big prison—the blockade is everywhere.”

“There are shortages of food, medicine and petrol—and there’s a big unemployment rate.”

Palestinians are also demanding the right to return to the land they were expelled from when Israel was created in 1948.

Some 850,000 Palestinians were forced to flee a campaign of systematic ethnic cleansing designed to ensure the new state of Israel had



Zeid Truscott of the NUS students' union brought solidarity

a Jewish ethnic majority. The protest also marked Land Day—the anniversary of the day in 1976 when Israel killed six people protesting against the theft of Palestinian territory.

Another protester told Socialist Worker, “I’m Palestinian myself.

PALESTINIANS CARRY an injured protester at the Gaza border

Palestinians have been protesting on Land Day since the 1970s.”

She added, “They’re just trying to return to their villages and the places they were expelled from.”

Other protesters said they were protesting against Britain’s complicity in the oppression of Palestinians.

Historic

One said, “It’s very important that people in Britain protest because Britain has a historic responsibility after handing Palestinian land to Israel.”

Another said, “The least Britain can do to right this historic wrong is to recognise Palestine as an independent Palestinian state.

“They can sanction Israel and hold it to account for its crimes.”

Speakers at the demonstration also

spoke out against attempts to smear criticism of Israel as antisemitic.

Zeid Truscott of the National Union of Students spoke of how student activists had faced attempts to clamp down on campaigning.

Other speakers called for activists to make sure the Palestine Solidarity movement kept mobilising people—including for a national PSC demonstration on 11 May.

Ben Jamal said, “We need you here in great numbers—tens of thousands of us—on 11 May.

“We will stand in solidarity with Palestinians for as long as they continue to resist.”

National Demonstration for Palestine Exist! Resist! Return!

Sat 11 May, assemble 12 Noon Portland Place, March to Whitehall

Shutdown of debate at Harlow council

A LABOUR council leader last week appeared to call a pro-Palestinian campaigner racist for criticising the state of Israel.

Palestine solidarity activist Adam Cochrane was repeatedly shut down by Harlow council leader Mark Ingall when presenting a petition to the council’s cabinet.

Ingall warned “this council does not tolerate racist behaviour” after Adam called Israel a “racist state”. Council managing director Brian Keane also told Adam to “watch what you say”.

“We cannot have that kind of language in the council chamber,” he said. “It may be your view but I don’t think it’s



Activist Adam Cochrane

one that we should actually hear in this meeting.”

Adam and some 20 other campaigners asked the council to add a caveat to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

The IHRA definition includes an example of antisemitism which says it could be antisemitic to describe the state of Israel as a “racist endeavour”.

Ingall insisted that the IHRA doesn’t restrict criticism of Israel. But he didn’t explain why Adam had been stopped from calling Israel a racist state.

The IHRA definition has been used to clamp down on Palestine societies campaigning for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions.

The campaign to force the Labour Party to adopt the IHRA definition was accompanied with attacks on left wing party members.

Prominent activist Jackie Walker was expelled from Labour last week for saying she hadn’t found a definition of antisemitism she could “work with”.

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Israel uses Islamophobia

THE VIOLENCE against Palestinians protesters last Saturday was characteristic of the way Israel has responded to the demonstrations.

The Palestinian ministry of health in Gaza says at least 266 Palestinians have been killed on the protests—and more than 30,000 injured.

Israeli politicians have justified the violence with Islamophobia and claims that the protesters want to massacre civilians.

Ofir Gendelman, prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu’s spokesperson, tweeted

a picture of protesters wearing the niqab. He claimed that “Isis women” were participating in “riots” at the Gaza fence, despite nothing in the photo linking the women to the reactionary Islamist group. But Israel also makes clear that they will never accept

Palestinian demands to be allowed to return home because it would threaten Israel as a Jewish majority state. Israel’s ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon last year claimed allowing Palestinians to return home would mean the “destruction of Israel”.

Ofir Gendelman



Tories rip each other apart amid Brexit deal shambles

by CHARLIE KIMBER

HOW MUCH worse can it get before the government collapses?

Michael Roth, Germany's Europe minister, last weekend called Brexit a "big shitshow". The Financial Times newspaper added, "Ironically, the same phrase is being used by members of Mrs May's Downing Street team."

Such figures are not thinking about the interests of ordinary people. They worry about "chaos" destabilising their serene profit-making system.

But their views underline the sense of crisis and collapse.

Theresa May's Brexit deal, hammered out after more than two years of tortuous negotiations, was rejected three times by MPs. On Monday MPs voted against all the alternative options to it.

A chasm divides the governing party. Chancellor Philip Hammond used one of his close aides to signal that he now backed a second referendum on Brexit. This is completely against May's policy.

After the second referendum motion failed Tory MP Mark Francois told a BBC radio programme, "If you're listening, Mr Hammond, my fraternal message to you is, 'Up yours!'"

Rotting

Whatever May does, she faces massive obstacles. There were signs she might dig up her rotting Brexit deal and try to pass it for the fourth time. If it fails again even she might not be able to hang on.

Some government ministers believe May should abandon the attempt to get a deal and begin preparing for a no-deal exit. Last week 170 Tory MPs, including ten cabinet ministers, wrote to May insisting Britain must leave the European Union (EU) soon.

But that will cause a revolt and



BACK STORY

Theresa May has spent two years negotiating her Brexit deal

- MPs had rejected it three times as Socialist Worker went to press
- MPs have also voted to reject a number of alternatives to May's deal
- Some MPs think May should begin preparing for a no-deal exit
- May's crisis is such that she has been forced to promise to resign once her deal is passed

resignations among Tories who oppose no deal.

And behind them stand powerful interests. Sir Mark Sedwill, Britain's highest ranking civil servant, wrote a 14-page letter to the cabinet outlining the consequences of a no-deal exit. It warned of a recession and a depreciation in the pound.

Pressure

Much of this is ruling class scaremongering, and business and state bureaucrats will intensify their pressure to mould this crisis to their will.

Some Tories are rumoured to be pushing for a general election to break the deadlock. That would be hugely welcome.

It would give a chance to shift the agenda away from Brexit to austerity, racism and climate change, presently ignored and drowned out.

But most Tories are going to oppose a move towards their own potential demise.

Britain was set to leave the EU on 12 April. There could be an extension, but this would mean Britain holding European Parliament elections in May. Like a second referendum, these would become a focus for the far right.

The missing element is an independent working class intervention into the crisis. That is why the government has not collapsed.

It's more urgent than ever.

WITH POTENTIALLY just days to go until Brexit, parliament is still deep in crisis

Labour MPs tacking to the right to attack freedom of movement

THE LABOUR Party moved sharply to the right over Brexit this week.

On Monday party leaders told their MPs to vote for the "Common Market 2.0" deal.

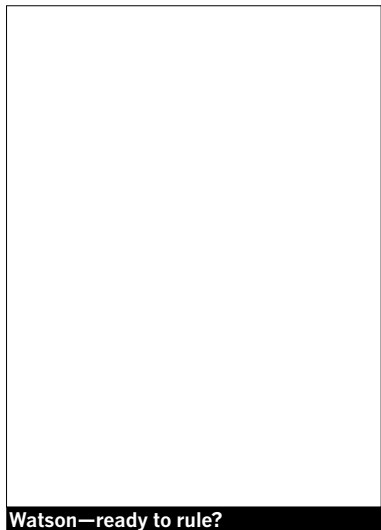
This would keep all the worst aspects of the EU's single market and customs union. It would entrench the EU's pro-business and anti-nationalisation rules, while completely removing any ability to change these rules.

It was a huge concession to the corporations' demands to vote through a Brexit that is as similar as possible to staying in the EU so they can continue to make their profits. Many Labour MPs refused to vote for this—25 voted against and 35 abstained.

Maintaining

But most of them did so for the poisonous reason that it might lead to maintaining workers' freedom of movement.

Labour MP Kevin Barron tweeted a link to the Labour manifesto stating "free movement will end when we leave the European Union". He added, "Small reminder



Watson—ready to rule?

of the manifesto that all Labour MPs were elected on in 2017. Clearly states that we will end freedom of movement when we leave the EU."

Labour needs to be against a bosses' Brexit, but for defending and extending freedom of movement. Labour also backed a "confirmatory

referendum" on any Brexit deal. This could mean a vote between May's deal or something similar and Remain. That would be an undemocratic farce, leaving millions of people with nothing to vote for.

Increasingly

Meanwhile Labour deputy leader Tom Watson increasingly acts as if he were Labour leader—and is allowed to get away with it.

Last Saturday he went as far as to suggest the solution to the Brexit crisis might be a "national government".

In an interview Watson said, "I hope we never get to a point where our economy or security is so in peril that we get a government of national unity."

He then added, "If needs must, we have to then do what's right." And "close confidants" of Watson were quoted who claim pro-EU Tories have approached him about serving in such a government.

A national government would be a "save business" government that would continue to ram through austerity and racism.

IN BRIEF

Anti-racists rally in wake of Islamophobic hate crime

OVER 100 people rallied outside Turnpike Lane Tube station on Monday after a man tried to pull off a Muslim woman's hijab last Saturday.

Lina, the student who was attacked at the north London station, joined the Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) protest. "It shocks you," she said. "I just wanted

to make it clear to people, do not fear for your life, do not feel like you have to stay at home."

Lina called on people to "intervene if you see anything like that happen".

"Thank god that I am composed enough to do something about it, but a lot of people wouldn't know what to do," she said.

The protest brought together Labour



Activists rallied in north London

Picture: Swen Doyle

Party members, other socialists, trade unionists and Muslim organisations.

Lotte, a Labour member in Hornsey and Wood Green, said, "It's massively important that we stand together on all occasions that we see racist activity."

Simon from SUTR said, "You have to see

this in a bigger and wider context. It's only a couple of weeks ago that 50 Muslims were murdered at two mosques in New Zealand by a fascist.

"Fascists are emboldened because politicians around the world have played the race card."

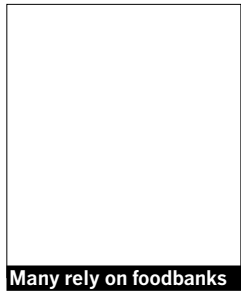
Police have arrested a 51-year old man.

Benefit freezes contribute to soaring poverty figures

SOME 200,000 more children were pushed into absolute poverty in 2017-18, figures from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) show.

The number of children living in relative poverty also rose to 4.1 million—or 30 percent of children in Britain. Some 70 percent of children living in poverty were in working families.

The figures showed that more pensioners were also driven into



Many rely on foodbanks

poverty. The DWP found that inequality deepened, partly because of the benefit freeze.

Relative poverty means households

living on less than 60 percent of the current median income. Households in absolute poverty live on less than 60 percent of the 2010-11 median income.

Neither figure takes housing costs into account. The figures also showed that 100,000 more disabled people were living in absolute poverty after housing costs in 2017-18 than in 2016-17.

Wage increase not enough

THE TORIES' living wage and minimum wage went up by meagre amounts this week.

The Tory living wage, for people aged 25 and above, rose by 38p to £8.21 an hour.

The Living Wage Foundation said a worker on this rate would earn £1,540.50 a year less than if they earned the "real Living Wage".

It would take an

extra five weeks' work to make up the shortfall.

The foundation said this extra cash could pay for nearly six months' food and drink for an average household, or a year's gas and electric bills.

The gap is even wider for workers in London, where full time workers on the new living wage are set to earn £4,563 less than those

earning the London Living Wage.

Meanwhile the minimum wage rose by 32p to £7.70 an hour for workers aged between 21 and 24. If you're aged 18-20 it's just £6.15 an hour—and a disgraceful £4.35 for under 18s.

The changes come as official figures showed that typical household incomes fell in real terms last year.

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

THE SYSTEM IS IN CRISIS—FIGHT TO GET RID OF IT

BUSINESS AS usual has broken down in politics. We aren't witnessing simply a crisis of Theresa May's government or the Tory party.

The last decade has been defined by crises—economic, social, political, ideological and environmental.

Shockwaves tore through the world economy in 2007. In response, politicians and bosses pushed austerity and attacked working class people.

But our rulers haven't solved the underlying crisis of profitability that led to the crash.

And catastrophic climate change is a real prospect.

These crises form part of a bigger crisis for the system.

The Italian revolutionary Antonio Gramsci argued that sometimes we face an "organic crisis of capitalism". Economic, social and political problems combine into a comprehensive crisis of the system.

This exposes its contradictions—and our rulers' inability to resolve them.

Different sections of the ruling class pull in competing directions and the system's ability to impose

its view of the world partially breaks down.

This can lead ordinary people to reject established parties and once-dominant ideas about the best way to run things.

The liberal centre, which has mostly dominated in the West since the end of the Second World War, is cracking up.

In Britain the Tories—the main party of British capitalism—are pursuing policies over Brexit that big business opposes.

And big business, which normally influences politics with ease, hasn't always been able to get what it wants.

The Tories and Labour haven't suffered the wipeouts that major

“Organic crisis makes bigger changes possible, but they are not automatic”

parties in some other countries have. But the right of the Tory party—and some further to its right—have grown stronger.

And Labour made gains at the last general election partly because Jeremy Corbyn was seen as a break with the norm.

For Gramsci, organic crisis makes much bigger changes possible. But it doesn't make progressive change or the collapse of the old order automatic.

He wrote that when the "old is dying and the new cannot yet be born" a "great variety of morbid symptoms appear".

One of the most alarming of these is the rise of far right forces across the world.

But the right's victory is not inevitable. The struggles we see in France and Algeria are also responses—and hugely positive ones—to the crisis. So too are the inspiring school students' climate strikes.

The cure for these morbid symptoms isn't to prop up the liberal centre and hope for the return of business as usual.

When the system is in crisis, we have to resist, take action and seize the opportunity to argue for a different sort of society.

AN ACCOUNTING SCAM

OVER A quarter of audits carried out by the major accountancy firms don't meet the standards of the accountancy regulator.

That shouldn't be a surprise.

Four firms—KPMG, EY, PwC and Deloitte—audit the accounts of 97 percent of Britain's largest firms.

These organisations can destroy people's lives with the stroke of a pen.

Accountants are not dispassionate or unbiased. They

are rewarded with contracts for other services if they give companies a clean bill of economic health.

KPMG is under investigation for its role in the collapse of outsourcing firm Carillion.

The giant accountants are part of a system that makes obscene wealth for the few.

The Saudi state oil company Saudi Aramco has announced the biggest annual profits ever recorded—£84.7 billion last year. This concentration of capital

makes the potential effects of economic collapse ever greater.

The solution put forward by a committee of MPs is to break up the big firms and remove their auditing function from the rest of their services.

But it's unlikely that bosses will stand by and allow their cosy deals to be threatened.

Greater regulation is needed. But the entire capitalist system that rests on the nods, winks and cooked books of accountants needs to be brought down too.

REVIEW

HOW CAPITALISM IS CHOKING THE PLANET

Camilla Royle on why we need system change
John Sinha on air pollution

Plus
Bea Kay on the media's distortions of child abuse
Jane Hardy tells the story of the home care workers' fight
Siobhan Brown celebrates 100 years of the Bauhaus

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ANALYSIS

TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS



Don't back bigots in the battle for Brexit

LABOUR'S FAILURE to put forward an independent vision for Brexit can allow neoliberal and right wing forces to make the running.

The danger was shown when FBU firefighters' union official Paul Embery joined the Leave Means Leave rally last Friday. Embery had previously denounced labour movement figures who spoke alongside Tories and big business on the People's Vote march last month.

He then lined up with some of the most vehement enemies of the working class last week.

He spoke alongside Nigel Farage, former Tory minister Mark Francois and right wing newspaper columnist Julia Hartley-Brewer. Another prominent speaker was Wetherspoon boss Tim Martin—who denounced a recent strike at two of his pubs as “gun boat diplomacy”.

Why would a union official fall into that disgraceful position? For Embery the “divide is between those who respect democracy and those who don't, between democrats and anti-democrats”.

This means any reactionary—as long as they back Brexit—is a potential Embery ally. And his bigoted beliefs on issues such as abortion rights and LGBT+ rights chime with other reactionary ideas.

Some pro-Remain activists in Labour link such ideas to Lexit—the left case for leaving the European Union (EU).

An article by activist Sabrina Huck claimed that “a cocktail of left wing economics and socially conservative values is on the ascendance in Corbynite circles”.

It's true that some right wing Labour members or Embery support Brexit. Their project is based on a patronising, pessimistic view of working class people as basically conservative and racist. And they see Brexit as a chance to bolster their nationalist politics of “family, faith and flag”. But this isn't down to Lexit. It's a set of right wing ideas already existing within the Labour movement.

Restricting immigration, for instance, is Labour's official policy—and is supported by politicians who back the EU.

Labour is committed to retaining full access to the single market and a customs union, the chief demand of big business. At the same time it wants to dump freedom of movement and bring in a discriminatory “skills-based” immigration system.

Platforms

There is a socialist case against the EU that does not line up behind big business or bigots. The Lexit campaign—which the Socialist Workers Party was a founding member of—never shared platforms with Ukip or the official Leave group.

The EU is a regional capitalist bloc whose member states compete globally with larger rivals, such as the US and China. That means the EU wants free movement of capital, goods and services and labour within its territory—and tight control over what's allowed in from outside.

These borders are protected by its “Fortress Europe” policy, which has turned the Mediterranean into a mass grave of refugees. And, because the EU is a capitalist bloc, free market policies that protect profits are hardwired into it.

Single market rules restrict left wing policies, such as nationalising whole industries to run them as public services. So a Corbyn-led government could renationalise Royal Mail, but it would still have to compete with private rivals.

There are differences among Lexit supporters. Some object to the EU on nationalist grounds. If only we left the EU, their argument goes, a Labour government could get on with implementing left wing policies in Britain.

And many accept right wing myths that immigration undercuts wages and conditions.

The EU does block left wing policies, but leaving it won't usher in a socialist utopia. Yet it could weaken a racist, neoliberal institution. And when our rulers and their institutions are weakened, it opens up opportunities for working class people to force through change.

A left wing vision of Brexit should be based on an internationalist defence of workers and migrants. It should say, “Yes to freedom of movement,” and, “No to the single market.”

The Tories' crisis gives the left an opportunity. To grasp it we need to put forward an independent class position that doesn't tail rival sections of the establishment over Brexit.



TOMMY ROBINSON supporters on the streets last Friday (main and below)

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

Thousands join two ‘Brexit Betrayal’ rallies in London

RIVAL RALLIES against the “Brexit betrayal” last Friday showed how right wing forces are trying to capitalise on Theresa May's troubles.

Around 10,000 people joined the two protests outside parliament.

The much larger Leave Means Leave rally in Parliament Square was addressed by prominent Tories, former Ukip leader Nigel Farage, right wing Labour MPs and other supporters of a nationalist Brexit.

Well-heeled, middle class supporters of the Tory party were prominent in the crowd.

A few hundred metres up the road Nazi Tommy Robinson and Ukip had organised a “Make Brexit Happen” rally.

From the beginning it was a far right rally for Robinson rather than for Brexit. Around 3,000 racists flocked to hear him rant about how he has “proudly stood against the establishment” for the last ten years.

Drifted

Half the crowd drifted off when Ukip leader Gerard Batten took to the stage after Robinson.

Robinson barely mentioned Brexit. He used the rally as another opportunity to showcase Panodrama, a short film about the BBC that plays on far right and antisemitic themes around “globalism”.

Robinson spent a long time defending a school student who attacked a Syrian refugee child in Huddersfield last year. “There was no evidence that it was anything racist,” he said.

“He was a child, an English child—this would never happen to a Muslim child.”

The rally showed that Robinson is still deciding whether to build up a street movement around Brexit or on a politically harder basis.

He has suffered setbacks on both fronts in the last year.

Old school Nazis and alt-right supporters were



marginal on the Leave Means Leave rally.

There were more Ukip flags on it than at the official Ukip rally.

Some of the party's members have kicked back against Batten's attempts to revive their fortunes by courting far right street movements.

Reaction

The Leave Means Leave rally was distinct from Robinson. But it was still a sea of reaction, with cheers for a Loyalist marching band.

Farage received a hero's welcome as he said, “We will get our country back and we will get our pride and respect back. I am more determined than ever to fight back against this political class.”

Other speakers included Tory MP and former defence minister Mark Francois, a member of Jacob Rees-Mogg's European Research Group. Firefighter and FBU union member Paul Embery also spoke (see left).

The demonstrations show how racist and far right forces can grow from the Brexit crisis and a possible second referendum.

We need anti-racist unity between people who voted Leave and Remain to push the right back.

United against racism

AROUND 150 anti-racists joined a counter-protest against Nazi Tommy Robinson and Ukip on Whitehall, central London, last Friday.

It was organised by Stand Up To Racism and Unite Against Fascism.

Riccardo La Torre, FBU firefighters' union Eastern regional secretary, emphasised the

need for unity to stop Robinson.

“Whether you are Leave or Remain, the far right are not the answer,” he said.

Other speakers included Labour London assembly member Unmesh Desai, socialist author Louise Raw and RMT union senior assistant general secretary Steve Hedley.

Virgil Bitu from the Gypsy Council also spoke.



On the anti-racist counter-protest



Got a story?

Email ideas to reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Birmingham march calls for justice for Kingsley

by ALISTAIR FARROW

“WHO KILLED Kingsley Burrell? The police killed Kingsley Burrell!” rang out through the streets of Birmingham last Saturday.

Over 100 people gathered at the Handsworth cemetery, where Kingsley is buried, on the eighth anniversary of his death. They said prayers at Kingsley’s grave.

Then people marched to the Newtown police station, where some of the police officers involved in his death were based at the time.

“This demonstration has had maximum impact,” said Kedisha Brown-Burrell, Kingsley’s sister, told Socialist Worker. “They have closed down the police station because of the march.”

The cops re-opened the police station after marchers left.

“The police say that the officers who were involved in Kingsley’s death are no longer based at Newtown, but I’ll believe it when I see it,” said Kedisha.

“People in the community deserve to know if these officers are still there.”

Kingsley died on 31 March 2011. He was restrained by police at a mental health unit and beaten while he had a towel placed over his face.

He was then left unattended and unconscious for 28 minutes with the towel still over his face and his trousers around his ankles.

Four police officers have been investigated for their roles in his death.

One cop, Paul Adey, was sacked for gross misconduct in December of last year after being found guilty of giving a false account of Kingsley’s death to a 2015 inquest.

Despite this, Adey’s supporters set up a secret Facebook group to campaign for him.

Saturday’s march aimed to increase the pressure on the police after Adey’s dismissal.

Dare

Kedisha said that the justice campaign chose the anniversary to hold the march because Adey’s supporters “would not dare” to hold a counter-protest.

Now Kingsley’s family are considering new legal action—including a possible private prosecution—to get something close to justice for him.

“I’m really pleased with how things went,” said Kedisha after the protest. “We are launching a new website soon to let people know about updates with the campaign.”

“The next step is pursuing a public inquiry. If that is not successful we will go for a private prosecution.

“That will take money, so we will be putting a call out for donations when that happens.”



PART OF the protest in Birmingham last Saturday

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

Saturday’s march marked eight years since Kingsley was killed, and people from other campaigns came to call for the police to be held to account.

Dozens of people from other justice campaigns joined the march, including family and friends of Trevor Smith.

Trevor died on 15 March after police shot him in his bed shortly before 5am.

A delegation of about 30 people from Coventry also joined the march.

They were demanding justice for Sean Fitzgerald, who was shot and killed by police during a raid on his home in January.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct said, “Decisions and actions of the police officer who fired the shot” are being investigated.



On other pages...

Health campaigners celebrate Tory retreat >>>Page 16

New guidance for schools

MPs PASSED new LGBT+ inclusive relationship and sex education (RSE) regulations by 538 votes to 21 last Wednesday.

The new guidance will make RSE compulsory in all English schools from September 2020.

The 21 bigots who voted against this came from the Tories and the Democratic Unionist Party.

Labour right winger John Spellar joined them.

Tory MPs included Christopher Chope, who previously tried to block a bill to make upskirting illegal. He voted against Equal Marriage in 2013.

And the anti-choice Society

for the Protection of the Unborn Child—which opposes the RSE regulations—boasted that Chope “voted with the pro-life lobby” 54 times.

The vote came amid attempts to derail LGBT+ education by some government figures and others.

Anderton primary school in Birmingham suffered parent protests last week.

Five schools in the city have already suspended LGBT+ lessons after protests by mainly Muslim parents.

There should be more RSE in schools and parents should not have the right to withdraw children if they disagree with the lessons.

Activists set for protests on climate

ACTIVISTS ARE gearing up for the next stage of the fight against climate change.

School strikers are getting ready to take to the streets in Britain for their third day of action on 12 April. Organisers Youth Strike 4 Climate say 46 protests in towns and cities have already been registered.

In Berlin over 25,000 students walked out last Friday, making the action 40,000-strong across Germany.

An international day of action has been called for 24 May. This follows international strikes on 15 March where 1.5 million students struck together.

Activists from Extinction Rebellion are getting ready for the “International Rebellion” beginning on 15 April.

Campaigners are set to descend on central London and hold occupations until the government agrees to climate change talks.

Chaos

The global impact of climate chaos was highlighted in a report by the United Nations’ World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) last Thursday.

It showed that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are increasing to record highs and that sea levels are rising at a faster rate. The report also found that temperatures in some of the world’s oceans are at record levels and glaciers are melting.

The new research comes as floodwaters caused by the devastating Cyclone Idai in southern Africa are receding.

The cyclone has destroyed swathes of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi, displaced hundreds of thousands of people and flooded 1,158 square miles of land.

Petteri Taalas, WMO secretary general, warned that Idai “may turn out to be one of the deadliest weather-related disasters to hit the southern hemisphere”.

FIGURE IT OUT

1.5 million students across the world struck to demand action on climate change on 15 March

46 protests in towns and cities across Britain have been called for 12 April

1.5 degrees is the maximum that temperatures can rise by to avoid catastrophic climate change



UNITED STATES

Ruling class deals a blow to the Green New Deal

THE “Green New Deal” (GND) programme of action on climate change gathered no support in the US Senate last week.

It is pushed by Democrat politicians such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who is not part of the Senate.

The deal calls for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and to have net zero emissions by 2050.

It also calls for millions of green jobs and investment in renewable energy and clean transport.

And it calls for providing funding to combat extreme weather events and eliminating pollution in the agricultural sector.

In the senate the deal gathered 57 no votes, and 43 senators voting “present”—a neutral vote that registers their attendance, but doesn’t indicate support or opposition.

It’s a scandal that the Democrats didn’t back the GND.

Democrats voting “present” included Kirsten Gillibrand.

Gillibrand is a presidential contender who is co-sponsor of the GND legislation. Bernie Sanders also voted “present”.

Massive

The debate was timetabled by Republicans. They wanted to say that anyone who voted for the deal was “anti-business”.

Republican Mike Lee claimed the deal would leave Hawaii with “a massive fleet of giant, highly trained sea horses” for transport.

Lee also said “the solution to climate change is not this unserious resolution.

“The solution to so many of our problems at all times and in all places is to fall in love, get married and have some kids.”

Donald Trump said it would mean “no more airplanes, no more cows, one car per family”.

Ocasio-Cortez hit back, saying the deal was about “shifting our economic, political and social paradigms on every issue because we don’t have time to wait.”

Sarah Bates

French teachers join the revolt against Macron

by CHARLIE KIMBER

TEACHERS ACROSS France were set for a national day of strikes and demonstrations on Thursday this week.

They are fighting authoritarian attacks on education pushed through by government minister Jean-Michel Blanquer.

Some of them are modelled on British “reforms”.

Blanquer wants to step up central control over teaching, teacher training and practice in the classroom. Compulsory education from the age of three would be a boon for private kindergarten providers.

Schools would also have to display French and EU flags.

Thousands of teachers and parents took to the streets in Paris last Saturday. Mari, a Paris teacher, told Socialist Worker, “Our slogan was, ‘Jean-Michel Blanquer, authoritarian minister, reactionary minister, we do not want to work for you’.

Attack

“It’s clear that the government of president Emmanuel Macron wants to attack all workers, and to take back the gains we have made over decades on education and other services.

“I hope that the strike will be big. Already there are dozens of Paris schools on indefinite strike and the general assembly of strikers in all primary and secondary school in Ile-de-France—the region around Paris—called for a strike from this Monday.”

Yellow Vests were also on the streets, on the twentieth successive Saturday of demonstrations.

The state intensified its crackdown by banning demonstrations in parts of 27 cities



HOUSING CAMPAIGNERS marched with the Yellow Vests last Saturday

PICTURE: PHOTOTHEQUE ROUGE/JMB

and towns. In Paris a new motorised unit was deployed with baton-wielding police on motorbikes.

But protests went ahead, with big turnouts in many places including Toulouse, Saint Etienne, Bordeaux, Lille, Strasbourg, Montpellier and Marseilles.

Official figures say that the numbers of Yellow Vest were lower than last week’s big demonstrations, but more people marched than the two weeks before that. The Yellow Vests themselves say 127,000 took part.

Demonstrations also took place on Tuesday last week against police violence—particularly, the attack

on 73-year-old Genevieve Legay in Nice during the previous week of Yellow Vest protests.

Legay, an activist in the anti-capitalist group Attac France, was severely injured with a fractured skull and five broken ribs.

Macron responded, “I wish her a quick recovery and I also wish her more wisdom. A fragile person shouldn’t put themselves in such a situation.”

He also said the police were not responsible for her fall. But a police report concluded that “a man with a shield”—almost certainly a police officer—pushed her

down.

During the four months of Yellow Vests protests over 8,700 people have been arrested and 2,000 have been sentenced, 800 of them to prison terms. Nearly 1,800 more are waiting for their judgment.

Yet the revolt goes on. It will be all the stronger if there are more strikes that can lead to the unity of organised workers and Yellow Vests.

On other pages...

Mass revolts sweep Algeria
 >>>Page 20

MIGRATION

Refugees seize helm and cross high seas to Malta

THE MALTESE government is prosecuting three refugees under terror charges for hijacking a ship to make it to safety in Europe.

The teenagers appeared in court in the Maltese capital of Valletta on Saturday facing prison sentences of between seven and 30 years.

They were among 108 refugees picked up off the Libyan coast by the El Hiblu 1 merchant oil tanker.

The captain said the refugees

“were desperate and absolutely did not want to return” to Libya.

“They attacked the cockpit, heavily beating on the doors and the windows and they threatened to smash the boat.”

Refugees face torture, rape and trafficking in camps in Libya.

The hijacking shows that refugees aren’t just passive victims, but have their own agency. Anti-racists should build solidarity with refugees to force the government to open the border and let them in.

TURKEY

Is Erdogan regime slipping?

TURKEY’S “STRONGMAN” leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan suffered a severe setback on Sunday. His ruling AK Party lost control of the capital Ankara for the first time in a local election. On Monday he was also behind in the count in the country’s largest city, Istanbul.

Erdogan had campaigned relentlessly for two months ahead of the vote, which he described as a “matter of survival” for Turkey.

But despite overwhelmingly supportive media coverage, the disenchantment over price rises and living standards saw victories for the opposition CHP. The CHP is a social democratic formation.

In mainly Kurdish southeastern

Turkey, residents celebrated as the pro-Kurdish opposition People’s Democratic Party (HDP) won back municipalities that authorities had taken over two years ago.

Erdogan tightened his hold on power in elections last year that ushered in an executive presidency, approved in a 2017 referendum. There are no national elections until 2023.

A slippery Sturgeon

SEEING NICOLA Sturgeon, the Scottish National Party (SNP) leader, happily posing with Alastair Campbell at the recent People's Vote march in London truly gave me the boak.

Her alliance with Campbell shouldn't surprise us. Sturgeon's first interview as leader was given to the bosses' Financial Times newspaper to reassure them they had "nothing to fear" from the SNP.

While, compared to Theresa May's Tories, there are more progressive policy stances we can point to, the SNP leadership is nevertheless increasingly drifting to the right.

The SNP leadership push the idea of a progressive European Union yet had no criticism of its silence over the anti-democratic violence of the Spanish state in Catalonia.

Scots are crying out for change but the SNP is not the answer.

Raymie Kiernan
Glasgow

Emergency climate fight

IT'S GREAT to see the Labour Party declare a "climate emergency".

This has been a key demand of both the school strikers and Extinction Rebellion activists. It shows how militant campaigning can get results.

But doesn't that mean Labour should throw its weight behind the fights for stopping Heathrow Airport expansion and fracking?

Janet Dyer
East London

Fighting against racism on campus together

BRISTOL Socialist Worker Student Society (SWSS) recently worked with the Palestine Society (PalSoc) to renew a motion to boycott goods that come out of illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The Free Speech Society voted against it.

It's a right wing group that has repeatedly invited provocative speakers who threaten both the trans and Muslim communities.

SWSS and PalSoc along



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Gambling bosses use new rules to attack us workers

FROM THIS week, betting shop customers will no longer be able to stake as much as £100 on a single spin of the roulette wheel on a Fixed Odds Betting Terminal (FOBT).

Instead FOBT players will be limited to a £2 bet.

This will have a major impact on the industry.

Betting companies have made vast profits from these machines that are rightly called the "crack cocaine of gambling".

Gamblers' losses increased year on year—in 2016, bookies made £1.8 billion from FOBTs alone.

That's over £50,000 per machine, or around triple the salary of a betting shop worker.

No betting shop worker takes

pleasure in witnessing the equivalent of their month's wages being lost in a matter of minutes in these machines.

Despite responsible gambling guidelines, the onus is on the customer to bar themselves from betting shops.

But the reality is that bookie bosses care little for the untold misery caused while they're swimming in massive profits.

Even while they're raking in huge profits, gambling companies are squeezing us workers.

The industry has seen a growth of lone-working alongside massive pay cuts at William Hill. The Ladbrokes/Coral merger brought job losses and finished off premium rates for overtime and

bank holidays. Betting shop workers will again pay the price as major bookmakers are planning shop closures and thousands of redundancies as a result of the FOBT cut.

Just a few years after cutting workers' wages by 20 percent, William Hill have written to 2,000 landlords requesting a 50 percent cut on their shops' rents.

Bosses claim their profits are due to be halved by the new FOBT rules.

The lack of union organisation in the betting industry makes resistance difficult, but where there is discontent there is always potential.

A betting shop worker
Address supplied

Team Ineos pedalling capitalism

A BRITISH cycling team—called Team Sky and sponsored by the company of the same name—will soon be sponsored by Jim Ratcliffe's fossil fuel company Ineos.

I thought Team Sky couldn't go any lower than sponsorship by a billionaire, union-busting media mogul. Rupert Murdoch owns 134 newspapers—all



Put the brakes on the Ineos sponsorship deal

of which supported the illegal invasion of the Iraq to secure its oil.

"Team Ineos" is an affront to ethical sensibilities. The clean air, keep fit legacy of cycling

we hear so much about turns out to be only an image improving opportunity for filthy capitalism.

Dave Ramsden
Bradford

Just a thought...

Get on board People's Vote

A MILLION people were on the streets of London for a second referendum. Most were anti-Tory and anti-racist, and many of them anti-Corbyn. Where was Socialist Worker?

Clive Hopkins
Australia

Kick out the Tories now

I READ your coverage of the establishment crisis with interest (Socialist Worker, 27 March).

But even if Theresa May goes, the Tories will still churn out more of these despicable bastards.

Paddy Hanrahan
On Facebook

●THE BRITISH ruling class only agree about one thing.

They don't want Jeremy Corbyn to be prime minister.

Robert Venus
On Facebook

●MAY IS probably only saying she'll resign so MPs vote for her deal, then she'll change her mind and decide to stay. She is a liar and not to be trusted.

Guy Wakeford
On Facebook

Just a general election?

I SEE a lot of comrades arguing that now is the time for a general election after May's repeated defeats in parliament last week.

That's a good demand to make. But it can't be our only response. Remember our emphasis is on struggle to force the Tories out—not Labour's moves in parliament.

Mollie Day
Carlisle

Evict all the landowners

A RECENT report found that less than 500 people own over 50 percent of the land in Scotland.

This is land that has been stolen from us over the centuries. And the process is continuing.

Until there is a wider movement to overthrow the capitalist system then these parasites are unlikely to voluntarily give their land away.

Gerry McCabe
Aberdeen

DEVELOPERS CONSPIRE TO SEGREGATE PLAYGROUNDS BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

PAY TO PLAY?

A scandal over access to a communal play area has raised wider questions about the ownership of public space under capitalism, writes **Alistair Farrow**

BEHIND A story about swings, slides and children lies a deeper scandal about how modern capitalism is stealing the ground from beneath our feet.

Children at the Wren Mews estate in Lambeth, south London, were recently banned from part of their new housing estate.

Children from privately-owned flats were allowed to enjoy the playground. Those who lived in social housing in adjacent blocks were not.

The news was met with outrage, branding their exclusion as segregation. This is about the exclusion of ordinary people from public space. But it's also a result of a gradual whittling away of free spaces where children can play and enjoy themselves.

Libraries have been closed, as have Sure Start nurseries for early years. But the closure of playgrounds seems to have passed under the radar.

According to the Association of Play Industries (API), councils across England closed 214 playgrounds between 2016 and 2017.

By the end of this year, another 234 are set to have been closed.

Mark Hardy from the API said, "Something we all took for granted—safe, local and free spaces in which to play—is disappearing.

"Unless action is taken now, we are in danger of losing playgrounds."

Local authority funding for parks has been gutted. Between 1979 and 2000 funding for parks and green spaces was slashed by £1.3 billion.



WREN MEWS—A new development with rich people in mind



Mile End park in London generates half its revenue from commercial ventures

In 2001 the public parks assessment found that only 18 percent of historic public parks were judged by the people who managed them as being in good condition.

A 2006 report by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment put it bluntly, "As there is no statutory requirement for local authorities to fund green space, the influence of green space managers in the budgetary decision-making process is often limited."

So savage cuts are made. Either that or the funding comes from elsewhere.

Sometimes parks hire themselves out to music festivals in order to produce revenue. So something that is technically publicly-owned becomes private for a day, a weekend, or a week.

For instance, Mile End Park in east London generates 50 percent of its costs through commercial ventures, such as renting out pavilions and commercial spaces to parties or private firms.

It's just one part of the wider attack on public space.

Developments

Playgrounds and communal areas were built largely as a result of the huge social struggles in the wake of the Second World War. Army bases were occupied by families, which eventually forced the state to begin housing them.

Now the gains of that period are being rolled back.

From parks to libraries, common spaces that should be at the heart of public life are up for grabs.

There are hundreds of examples of this across Britain—from "poor doors" for social housing tenants on private housing developments to sham public parks.

"There is segregation and hierarchy built into developments" such as Wren Mews, argued south London campaigner Jerry Flynn. "The key problem is with the hierarchy of space—people have restricted access and different types of tenure are divided up into different blocks on a development."

It all comes down to political decisions, which makes the handwringing

of politicians over the Wren Mews scandal (see box) all the more hypocritical.

Everywhere ordinary people are excluded from control of their local environment and reduced to gazing at a world they are barred from.

Modern capitalism increasingly blurs lines between public and private.

The fake public space for the rich is just that—another barrier erected for them to feel secure. But it is also designed to give a false sense of social inclusion to the people who feel guilt when confronted with poverty.

"To the ordinary person, there's no distinction. To me, it's everything—I'm not the sort of person they want," one rough sleeper told the Guardian newspaper. He was talking about the private land designed to look like a park which is part of the Kings Cross development in north London.

It's part of the phenomenon of privately-owned public spaces, so-called Pops—policed by security guards.

Housing campaigner Glyn Robbins argues that this process can be traced back to the privatisation of London Docklands in the 1980s.

"In that transition there was an opportunity. A political decision was made to go in a certain direction," he said.

Now the area is filled with the glittering steel and glass spires of the financial sector, with sterile grass and concrete parks arranged in between them at ground level.

Since 1979 almost 50 percent of Britain's public land has been sold



ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS thrived in the 1970s and 80s but few now remain



New Labour's vision had private capital driving forward 'regeneration'

off to private interests. Margaret Thatcher began privatising public assets in the 1980s. Land was a part of a gold rush, along with the privatisation of council housing under the Right to Buy scheme.

Councils and the health service have taken the biggest hit. Local authorities have sold 40 percent of their land in the same time period, and the NHS 70 percent.

In the years since it has become a common sense that funding would no longer come from the state for public



The private sector has gleefully bought up parts of council-run playgrounds to build adventure theme parks for the middle classes. An adult and two children will have to fork out £61 for an hour in Go Ape in Battersea, south London. The site replaced the free adventure playground which was demolished to make room for the profiteers (left and below)

Labour council hypocrisy

OUTSOURCING LAY behind the Wren Mews scandal. All of the parties involved were happy to enforce the rules or to claim ignorance of what happened.

Political decision makers swooned in mock outrage.

But public pressure made them eventually back down—this time.

Tory housing minister James Brokenshire said, "I condemn this in the strongest terms"—ignoring that the Tories have created a housing system where ordinary people are treated with such contempt.

So did London mayor Sadiq Khan—never mind that he took money off Henley Homes for his election campaign for London mayor in 2016.

The firm donated £75,000 to the Labour Party in 2016, according to its accounts.

Further down the political food chain lies Lambeth council. In a letter in February, it could only manage a mealy-mouthed plea to Henley Homes suggesting that the playground should be open to all.

"This is a civil matter regarding the management agency and it is only within your gift to ensure that all play spaces are available for all children to use," it read.

Lead councillor for housing in Lambeth Matthew Bennett has described the scandal as "completely unacceptable". But

it was apparently acceptable for Lambeth council to close down three libraries in the borough and turn some into private gyms.

The response from every section of the political class is grossly hypocritical. Lambeth has been at the forefront of the drive to turn public services and space private.

Scandal

In 2017, the last year accounts were available, Henley Homes made almost £7 million profit on a £120 million turnover.

Its website describes it as having a "focused approach to customer care". As soon as the scandal broke the firm's chief executive Tariq Usmani was quick to point out that Wren Mews is "a freehold owned and managed by the Guinness Partnership".

The Guinness Partnership was equally quick to pass the buck. "We are now working with Warwick Estates, who manage the private development," one of their representatives told Socialist Worker.

Warwick Estates is one of the bottom feeders of London's complex private housing ecosystem. They didn't respond when asked for a comment.

They play a useful function for the bigger fish, which is true of all outsourcing in modern capitalism—plausible deniability.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

GLASGOW

Mohandas Gandhi—Experiments in Civil Disobedience. Book launch with author Talat Ahmed

Thu 25 Apr, 7pm, Avant Garde, 33-44 King St, Merchant City, G1 5QT

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

The Stephen Lawrence Report 20 years on—why does institutional racism still exist?

Thu 25 Apr, 7pm, The Swarthmore Education Centre, 2-7 Woodhouse Sq, LS3 1AD

LONDON: WEST & NORTH WEST

The Stephen Lawrence Report 20 years on—why does institutional racism still exist?

Thu 18 Apr, 7.30pm, Woodlane Community Centre, 78 White City Cl, Shepherd's Bush, W12 7DZ

PORTSMOUTH

Know your enemy—alt-right, the far right and fascists

Wed 10 Apr, 7.30pm, Somerstown Community Centre, River's St, PO5 4EZ

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

The Stephen Lawrence Report 20 years on—why does institutional racism still exist?

Thu 11 Apr, 7pm, Central United Reformed Church, 60 Norfolk St (near Crucible Theatre), S1 2JB

SOUTHAMPTON

A Marxist history of the Labour Party

Wed 8 May, 7.30pm, October Books, 189 Portswood Rd, SO17 2NF

YORK

Know your enemy—alt-right, the far right and fascists

Wed 1 May, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, YO1 9RL

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

Brexit shambles, Labour splits—how can we end Tory rule?

Mon 8 Apr, 6pm, The Snug, Ma Cameron's, 6-8 Little Belmont St, AB10 1JG



Marching with the school students' climate strikes

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

System change, not climate change

HUDDERSFIELD

Wed 17 Apr, 6.30pm, Brian Jackson House, 2 New North Parade (near both train and bus stations), HD1 5JP

CARDIFF

Wed 10 Apr, 7.30pm, Cathays Community Centre, Cathays Terrace, CF24 4HX

HARLOW

Thu 11 Apr, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, 1 Church Leys, Harlow, CM18 6BX

LIVERPOOL

Thu 25 Apr, 7pm, Friends Meeting House, 22 School Ln, L1 3BT

WIGAN

Thu 11 Apr, 7pm, The Brocket Arms, 38 Mesnes Rd, WN1 2DD

BIRMINGHAM

Why we hate Mondays—Marxism and alienation

Wed 10 Apr, 7pm, The Adam & Eve, 201 Bradford St, B12 0JD

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Marxism and religion

Wed 10 Apr, 7.30pm, Red Triangle Cafe, 160 St James's St, Burnley, BB11 1NR

DUDLEY

Israel—apartheid state

Wed 10 Apr, 8pm, The What Centre, 23 Coventry St, Stourbridge, DY8 1EP

EDINBURGH

Revolt in Algeria—the new Arab Spring?

Wed 10 Apr, 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, 7 Victoria St, EH1 2JL

HUDDERSFIELD

The Amritsar Massacre 100 years on

Wed 10 Apr, 6.30pm, Brian Jackson House, 2 New North Parade (near both train and bus stations), HD1 5JP

HULL

Brexit shambles, Labour splits—how can we end Tory rule?

Thu 18 Apr, 7pm, Cafe licious, 104 Cottingham Rd, HU6 7RZ

LONDON: HACKNEY

Brexit shambles, Labour splits—how can we end Tory rule?

Thu 11 Apr, 7.30pm, The Round Chapel, 2 Powerscroft Rd, E5 0PU

LONDON: HARINGEY

Gun and knife crime—why are young people killing each other?

Wed 10 Apr, 7.30pm, St John Vianney Church Hall, 386 West Green Rd (corner Vincent Rd), N15 3QH

LONDON: ISLINGTON

Food, poverty and climate change

Wed 10 Apr, 7pm, The Old Fire Station, 84 Mayton St, N7 6QT

LONDON: NEWHAM

The Amritsar Massacre 100 years on

Wed 17 Apr, 7pm, Stratford Advice Arcade, 107-109 The Grove (next to Morrisons car park), E15 1HP

LONDON: SOUTH

Brexit, borders and the case for a united Ireland

Wed 10 Apr, 7pm, Vida Walsh Centre, 2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd, facing Windrush Sq), Brixton, SW2 1EP

LONDON: SOUTH EAST

A Marxist history of the Labour Party

Wed 10 Apr, 7pm, Deptford Lounge, 9 Giffin St, SE8 4RH

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

A Marxist history of the Labour Party

Wed 10 Apr, 7pm, Epainos Church, Lichfield Rd, E3 5AT

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Marxism and morality

Wed 10 Apr, 7.30pm, William Morris Community Centre, 6-8 Greenleaf Rd, Walthamstow, E17 6QQ

MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

The Amritsar Massacre 100 years on

Wed 10 Apr, 7pm, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, M2 5NS

NOTTINGHAM

Politics of the mind—Marxism and mental distress

Wed 10 Apr, 7pm, International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Rd, NG1 3FN

OXFORD

Why we oppose all border controls

Wed 17 Apr, 7.30pm, Restore Building, Manzil Way, OX4 1YH

PLYMOUTH

System change not climate change

Thu 2 May, 7pm, Quaker House, 74 Mutley Plain, PL4 6LF

SCARBOROUGH

Do you need violence to get real change?

Wed 10 Apr, 7.30pm, Tap and Spile, 94 Falsgrave Rd, YO12 5AZ

SWANSEA

The snowflake generation—who decides free speech?

Thu 11 Apr, 7.30pm, Brynmill Community Centre, St Albans Rd, Brynmill, SA2 0BP

YORK

The Nakba to the Great March of Return—how can Palestine be free?

Wed 10 Apr, 7.30pm, Sea Horse Hotel, 4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

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TUC Midlands and Stand Up To Racism regional summit

Sat 1 June, 11am, TUC Midlands, 47 Summer Lane, B19 3TH. bit.ly/MidlandsSUTR

NATIONAL

National Demonstration for Palestine

Sat 11 May, 12 noon, Portland Place, London, W1B

NATIONAL

Forum—how can we stop the far right across Europe?

Sat 1 June, 1pm, National Education Union, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, WC1H 9BD.

Hosted by Stand Up To Racism

NATIONAL International conference—Stand Up to Racism 2019

Sat 19 October, 10am, Central London, venue TBC

NATIONAL Marxism 2019

4 July to 7 July London.

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At Eternity's Gate tells a story of fragility and artistic genius

While a new film about Van Gogh's last years could have approached the writer's life in more fruitful ways, it remains poignant, writes **Ben Windsor**

THERE HAVE been many films made about Vincent van Gogh in the 129 years since his death. He is one of the world's most loved painters, but also one of its most mythologised.

However, this film comes from an unusual source.

It is directed by Julian Schnabel, who worked as a painter for 20 years before directing his first film. Unlike Vincent van Gogh, he made millions from his art, successfully tapping in to the yuppie zeitgeist of the 1980s.

To some critics, Schnabel became a symbol of all that was rotten with that era—attacked for his “fake gestures” and “empty grandeur”. But since the mid-nineties he has specialised in biopics of creative people, including the painter Jean-Michel Basquiat.

There is a lot of talent involved in this film—Willem Dafoe gives a moving performance as Van Gogh, despite being decades older than the painter was.

Surrealist

One of the screenwriters, Jean-Claude Carrière, is a giant of cinema, best known for working with the surrealist Luis Bunuel.

The opening scenes of the film are tantalising.

We are immersed in Van Gogh's ways of seeing the world, and are introduced to some key aspects of his social environment.

To reflect both his disorientated state of mind and his pulsating, swirling canvases, there is some queasy camerawork.

There is even an extended point-of-view shot as he awkwardly approaches a shepherd on a country lane, and asks her to pose for him.

As the film develops, it is sucked increasingly into the territory of myth. It becomes preoccupied with Van Gogh's deteriorating mental health and his tragic early death. But this is such familiar territory.

He has become the template for the tormented artist. It is a shame the film did not follow the direction it seemed to be moving in at the beginning. If it had explored in greater detail precisely how he evolved to become one of the greatest painters of our times it may have been even better.

At Eternity's Gate is out now on limited release



WILLEM DAFOE delivers a measured, thoughtful performance as Vincent van Gogh

EXHIBITION

Van Gogh at Tate more than cash cow?

IT IS a paradox that Vincent van Gogh, best known for his sundrenched paintings of nature in rural France, is the product of two of the great cities of his time—Paris and London.

It's easy to forget that the paintings for which he is most celebrated were produced in an extraordinarily brief and prolific period at the end of his life. Yet many of his formative years were spent in very different surroundings.

Shortly after leaving school he worked six years for an art dealership, Goupils. This is what first brought him to England in 1873, aged 20. He loved London and immersed himself in the culture.

British novelists and illustrators had a big influence on him.

He particularly liked socially engaged artists such as Charles Dickens, and the printmakers who produced an illustrated magazine called The Graphic.

It is when dwelling on this aspect of Van Gogh's relationship with Britain that the exhibition is most rewarding. It does well to immerse us in his London, or at



A section of Van Gogh's Starry Night Over the Rhone

least the cultural aspects of it. At one point, the curators allude to “radical ideas” in society but go no further.

The show has polarised the critics. The Guardian described it as a “flabby blockbuster”. The Financial Times acclaims it as “the show of the season”.

The Tate's accountants will be happy either way as it has set a record for advance ticket sales.

It's certainly on a grand scale, and brings together several of Van Gogh's most famous paintings. But the brief the

curators have been given is so wide that many things have been shoehorned in which would have been better left alone.

While it's interesting (and even shocking) to see several of Vincent's earlier muddy and dull paintings, it's quite dispiriting to see what various British artists subsequently did, apparently “inspired” by him.

Van Gogh and Britain could have benefited from being a more modest show with a tighter focus.

Van Gogh and Britain is at the Tate Britain until 11 August

FILM

CAPTIVE STATE

Directed by Rupert Wyatt.
On general release

DOES THE world need another alien invasion film? Director Rupert Wyatt thinks so, and has tried to approach the genre from a different angle.

A resistance movement against an alien invasion is on the cusp of a major



John Goodman in Captive State

breakthrough. And the collaborator police chief, played by John Goodman, is on their tails.

OBITUARY

AGNES VARDA

1929–2019

GROUNDBREAKING French New Wave film director Agnes Varda has died.

A photographer, screenplayer and writer, her work often had an autobiographical theme.

She had a career spanning seven decades, including Oscar-nominated Faces Places, released in 2018.

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- The Labour Party—A Marxist History**
Tony Cliff, Donny Gluckstein and Charlie Kimber
- Antisemitism—The Far Right, Zionism and the Left**
Rob Ferguson
- Politics of the Mind**
Iain Ferguson
- Capitalism vs Climate**
Sarah Bates, Camilla Royle and Amy Leather
- A People's History of the Portuguese Revolution**
Raquel Varela

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Re-creating the artist at work

IN THE space of 100 days, starting from 7 April 1994, around 800,000 people were murdered in Rwanda, a country of around seven million people in east Africa.

Although driven from the top, the killing was carried out mainly by ordinary people. Much of it was done with basic weapons—clubs and machetes.

How can we understand why a footballer chops to death, seemingly without a care, the player who has been his team mate for years? How can a teacher slash the limbs from the person they used to work alongside?

For some it's just another blood-soaked episode on a hopeless continent. But there were reasons for what happened, and it was not some uniquely African phenomenon.

The genocide is one of the most horrific examples of people won over in huge numbers by scapegoating.

Exploited and oppressed people, whose interests lie in unity against those in power, were persuaded to blame and hate each other.

This division was peddled by a ruling class seeking to deflect attention from its own crimes and its part in a deep economic crisis.

Rwanda's rulers had used and intensified divisions between the Hutu and Tutsi groupings (see right) in the past. It led to violence and killing, although nothing on the scale of 1994.

The government of president Juvenal Habyarimana did the same again as an economic blizzard swept poorer countries in the 1980s.

The political stability of the regime followed almost exactly the curve of coffee, tea and tin prices that were set by the multinational corporations.

Collapse

A collapse in raw material prices caused intense pressure on Rwanda's peasantry, who made up 85 percent of the population. The government, with revenues falling, imposed huge increases in water prices, health charges and school fees.

At the same time the global bailiffs of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) imposed a structural adjustment programme. It meant privatisation, job losses and the removal of food subsidies.

Imagine the hatred of Muslims and migrants that is pushed in Europe taking place

“
Exploited people were persuaded to blame and hate each other
”



French troops looked on during the killings (main) President Habyarimana (above) whipped up division

at a far greater pitch and in a much poorer society. If you are persuaded that a minority of grasping traitors is to blame for your desperate conditions and the starvation of your children, the effects are predictably horrendous.

For years in the run-up to the genocide, the government deliberately focused the seething anger of the rural Hutu population towards the Tutsi minority.

Hammered

Government ministers, the press and the equivalent of the BBC relentlessly hammered home the message that the Tutsis were an enemy within, “cockroaches” that had to be crushed.

The government used an attempted invasion by Tutsi-led exiles in 1990 to paint them as a part of the population of dubious allegiance who would link up with foreign forces.

On 6 April 1994 Habyarimana's presidential plane was blasted from the sky by a missile. It's not clear who fired it.

It might have been a Tutsi rebel group, Hutu hardliners who thought the president was going soft, or agents of the French state.

The message went out immediately that this attack must be avenged.

The killing began, fuelled by base hopes of economic gain and the belief that the Tutsis would launch their own murderous assaults unless they were annihilated.

The genocide has been used as a clear example of when outside military intervention by the major powers would have been right. But Rwanda suffered from too much intervention, not too little.

The divisions between Hutu and Tutsi were set in stone by colonialism. The French government, competing for influence in Africa against Britain, the US and China, sent troops to support Habyarimana and helped put down revolts against him.



GENOCIDE IN RWANDA

Horrific killings 25 years ago were rooted in colonialism, economic crisis and scapegoating, writes Charlie Kimber

Throughout 1993, as social tensions grew, more and more of the Rwandan population were armed by foreign powers.

There were machetes from China and Kalashnikov rifles from Russia.

EGYPT secured a £4 million contract to supply arms, guaranteed by a French bank. Apartheid South Africa supplied £3.8 million of weaponry.

Two months after the killings began, the French launched a military intervention. Operation Turquoise, backed by the United Nations, involved 2,500 men.

French soldiers and government officials drove around Rwanda with enormous French

flags displayed on their vehicles. On seeing them, Tutsis would come out of hiding only to be killed by Hutu militias while the French did nothing.

The mounds of bodies did not halt French backing. Agathe Kanziga Habyarimana, the president's widow and one of those widely blamed for ordering the murders, was airlifted out of Rwanda by French troops and taken to Paris.

She is in France today, sustained initially by a government fund allocated for “urgent assistance for Rwandan refugees”.

Successful French governments have blocked criminal proceedings against 22 of its military figures accused of complicity in the murders.

The effects of intervention by other powers was clear in

the years after the genocide. The mass murder ended after the invasion of Rwanda by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). This was an exile group, formed mainly by Tutsi refugees.

It became a powerful military force thanks to arms and training from the Ugandan government. And the US and Britain also provided support.

Paul Kagame, the effective head of the RPF, received military tuition at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The RPF carried out reprisal killings as it formed a government after the massacres. The numbers are disputed, but there is strong evidence that 100,000 Hutus died in the first year.

In October 1996, the Rwandan army attacked Hutu

refugee camps in eastern Zaire, today's Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Some 300,000 Hutus fled deeper into Zaire to escape systematic killings. Nearly two thirds died over the next six months, according to Medecins Sans Frontieres. They were killed or died of disease, exhaustion and hunger.

Kagame, now president, presided over these killings and was backed to the hilt by the US and Britain. He set up a brutal, one-party, repressive state whose elections are fixed. The Rwandan killings were a product of imperialism, the actions of the local ruling class and the way capitalist booms and slumps wreck lives.

There is an indictment of that system.



The plane crash that sparked the genocide

False division of Hutus and Tutsis

FOR hundreds of years there have been people called Tutsis and people called Hutus in Rwanda.

In 1994 Tutsis made up about 15 percent of the population. Hutus made up nearly all the remaining 85 percent.

The terms originally corresponded to occupational categories. Cattle-herders, soldiers and administrators were mostly Tutsi, farmers were Hutu.

If your father was a Hutu, you would be a Hutu. But if you then grew richer and could buy cattle, you might become a Tutsi.

There was a ceremony of “becoming Tutsi” which recognised this. Your children would then be Tutsi.

These groups lived in relative peace in a society where they shared elements of power.

Colonialism brought a shattering transformation. Germany grabbed Rwanda as part of the carve-up of Africa between European states in the late 19th century.

To bolster their rule, they used an elite from

the Tutsi minority to govern. This increased hatreds and division.

When the Belgians took over colonial rule after the First World War they introduced identity cards that fixed ethnic groups for life.

Occupational-political identity became racialised. The Hutu were portrayed as only semi-human while the Tutsis were said to be “of good race, with nothing of the Negro, apart from his colour”.

In fact it is generally very difficult to tell the two groups apart. In 1994 the murdering militias had to use the identity cards to determine who lived and who died.

After decolonisation, the “social revolution” of 1959 saw a Hutu counter-elite take over. They adopted the method of divide and rule.

But the propaganda and divisions did not sweep everyone away in 1994.

Some Rwandans did their utmost to resist the slaughter. Ordinary Hutu people sometimes concealed Tutsis, even at a great price.

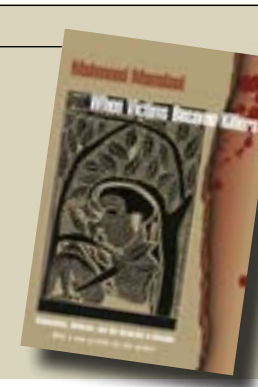
Amid the horror, there was heroic resistance by some ordinary people.

READ MORE

● **Coming to terms with barbarism in Rwanda and Burundi** by Charlie Kimber bit.ly/isjrwwanda

● **When Victims Become Killers** by Mahmood Mamdani

Available at Bookmarks. Phone 020 7637 1848 or at bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



HISTORY AND THEORY

Tories' last big split denied them a majority for 30 years

The repeal of the Corn Laws showed how our rulers can fall out—but still work together against us, writes Sadie Robinson

TORY ROWS over Brexit flow from disagreements about how best to defend British capitalism.

The same was true about the Tories' split over the Corn Laws in 1846—a split which deprived them of a parliamentary majority for nearly three decades.

The laws protected British agriculture by imposing tariffs on imported grain and keeping grain prices high. For wealthy landowners this meant more profit and power.

For ordinary people, it meant price hikes and shortages. Mounted troops had to defend parliament against furious crowds when the first Corn Law was introduced in 1804.

Some capitalists opposed the Corn Laws for their own immediate interests. They argued that the laws raised the cost of food so much that people had less to spend.

Interest

They had an interest in curbing British agriculture because they needed workers to move from the land to the factories.

Historian Eric Hobsbawm wrote that it understood that “the risk of revolution must be avoided at all costs”.

“Consequently the struggle between British industrialists and agrarian protectionists could be waged in the midst of the Chartist ferment without for a moment jeopardising the unity of all ruling classes against the

But the row went deeper. The rich feared radical change. The 1832 Reform Act reflected increasing pressure for parliamentary reform. And the Chartist movement for votes was growing.

The division over the Corn Laws was driven by a desire to protect the system—on both sides.

Blake wrote that it wasn't “a straight division of landed gentry against the rest”. Instead, one side saw the



A RIOT against the Corn Laws (above) Robert Peel (below)



Corn Laws as “an essential bulwark of the society in which they believed”.

The other side thought keeping them was “even more dangerous to that order than abandonment”. So wrangling factions of the ruling class were united by a shared concern for the system.

Historian Robert Blake said the divide was over whether the Tories remained “an aristocratic landed interest group” or accepted the Industrial Revolution.

Supporters of the latter hoped it would “relax the tensions which in the hungry 1830s and 1840s threatened revolution in Britain”.

But the row went deeper. The rich feared radical change. The 1832 Reform Act reflected increasing pressure for parliamentary reform. And the Chartist movement for votes was growing.

The division over the Corn Laws was driven by a desire to protect the system—on both sides.

Blake wrote that it wasn't “a straight division of landed gentry against the rest”. Instead, one side saw the

“
Both sides of the Corn Laws row wanted to protect the system
”

threat of universal suffrage.” Tory prime minister Sir Robert Peel thought repeal would maintain stability and that free trade would boost British business. But he wasn't anti-landowner.

During the Corn Law debates in May 1846 Peel said that maintaining an aristocracy was “of the utmost importance”.

He added, “The question is, what is the most effectual way of maintaining the authority of a territorial aristocracy?”

System

Most Tory backbenchers opposed repeal. For them, the Corn Laws were part of a system that protected their supporters.

The Duke of Richmond founded the Anti-League, which fought repeal. He railed against “modern innovations” that would render Britain “dependent on foreigners”. He complained of society “constantly changing because there happens to be some popular clamour”.

The fear was that if there could be change on the Corn Laws, then why not on everything else? Eventually the bill passed in 1846—but only a third of Tories voted for it. And Peel was forced to resign the same night.

Many who opposed him left and eventually joined the Whigs, later the Liberal Party.

We should not ever underestimate the seriousness of the current Tory crisis. But we should also remember that, for all the conflict, our rulers will work together to keep us down.

Health campaigners celebrate Tory retreat

by TOMÁŠ TENGEY-EVANS

TORY HEALTH secretary Matt Hancock has dropped plans to axe hospital services across west London after a seven-year battle by campaigners.

Hancock said that the “Shaping a Healthier Future” scheme of cuts, closures and selloffs was no longer supported by the Department of Health or NHS England last Tuesday.

The £500 million plans would have meant the closure of nearly half of accident and emergency (A&E) departments in west London.

A&E departments at Ealing Hospital and Charing Cross Hospital in the neighbouring borough of Hammersmith and Fulham would have been closed.

Forced

And Charing Cross would have been forced to sell off 87 percent of its premises to housing developers.

Health campaigners have welcomed the withdrawal of closure plans.

Anne Drinkell is chair

BACK STORY

The Tories have withdrawn plans to shut A&Es at Ealing and Charing Cross hospitals

● The planned cuts were part of the ‘Shaping a Healthier Future’ scheme

● If they went ahead, they would have nearly halved the number of A&Es in west London

● The Tories claimed that shifting the focus from hospitals to primary care provided in the community would help patients

● In reality, the scheme was part of a broader Tory push cuts disguised as “efficiency savings”

of the Save Our Hospitals campaign, which has been fighting to keep services at Charing Cross.

She told Socialist Worker the announcement was a testament to “the diversity of people involved and how we’ve stuck to it”.

“This is the end of a long story, with pushes and



HEALTH CAMPAIGNERS celebrate outside Charing Cross Hospital

victories along the way,” she said. “What’s helped keep us going is knowing that we’re part of something bigger, a wider fight to save the health service.”

Eric Leach, vice chair of the Ealing Save Our NHS campaign, told Socialist Worker, “This is a victory, but the battle is not over.

We’re lobbying to get back the child A&E, maternity and paediatrics services, new investment and for any capital bids to go to towards the outstanding repair bill.”

The health plans are deeply unpopular and have damaged the Tories in west London.

Hancock made the

announcement in response to a parliamentary question from Greg Hands, Tory MP for Chelsea and Fulham.

Hands saw his majority halved from 8,188 to 4,022 at the last general election in June 2017.

And Labour took control of Hammersmith and Fulham council in 2014,

increasing their majority in 2018 by focusing on the health plans.

Hammersmith and Fulham council, alongside Labour-run Ealing have worked with health campaigners and organised their own public meetings and demonstrations.

Strong

This would not have happened without strong local health campaigns.

Health campaigners in west London are now taking up other fights to defend the NHS and local services.

Anne said, “The announcement is a significant turnaround and it means we can fight other cuts.

“There are £30 million in primary health cuts planned for Hammersmith and Fulham by April 2020.”

Eric said the withdrawal of the closure plans should “give encouragement to people across England” who are fighting similar battles.

To follow the west London health campaigns go to Facebook pages

Ealing Save Our NHS and Save our Hospitals

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Child abuse at the heart of the British establishment

The flawed inquiry into institutional child abuse heard new damning evidence last week — unreported by the media—about how the state dealt with abusers, writes **Simon Basketter**

CHILD ABUSING senior spy Sir Peter Hayman escaped prosecution in 1978 after his solicitor lobbied the then Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in person.

The DPP Sir Thomas Hetherington, agreed not to prosecute senior MI6 officer Hayman, at a private meeting with his solicitor, Sir David Napley. Police investigated Hayman initially by accident.

They went to question a man called Peter Henderson at a sparse flat in Notting Hill, west London.

Henderson was on the membership list of the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE), which promoted sex with children.

Police found 45 volumes of diaries in which he repeatedly described child abuse.

Officers also found a stack of correspondence with other PIE members, exchanging their desires and images of child sexual abuse.

He also had a collection of “trophy” hanging in a cupboard.

A package of “obscene literature” was found on a bus in London. It was addressed to “Peter Henderson”.

Belonging

According to an Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) document, cops discovered a leather briefcase belonging to Hayman in St Regents Park, central London.

Inside were “20 envelopes containing black-and-white photographs of boys aged 8-11 years, dressed only in their ‘Y-fronts’.”

The letters and photos matched with many that had been found in Henderson’s flat.

Henderson was Hayman’s cover name.

According to the IOPC document, “Unaware of who Sir Peter Hayman

BACK STORY

The inquiry is looking at child sex abuse in public institutions in England and Wales

● It will look at how public and private “institutions have failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation”

● It looks likely the inquiry will not delve too far into what the security services and the police knew about a wide number of cases of VIP abuse

● That segment ended last Friday

● The Independent Office for Police Conduct say police did not cover up the abuse

was, the officers completed a check on the name and realised that he was the Queen’s High Commissioner to Canada.

“The supervisor took the briefcase from the officers and apparently said, ‘Keep your gobs shut and don’t say anything’.”

Bryan Collins was the detective who first questioned Hayman.

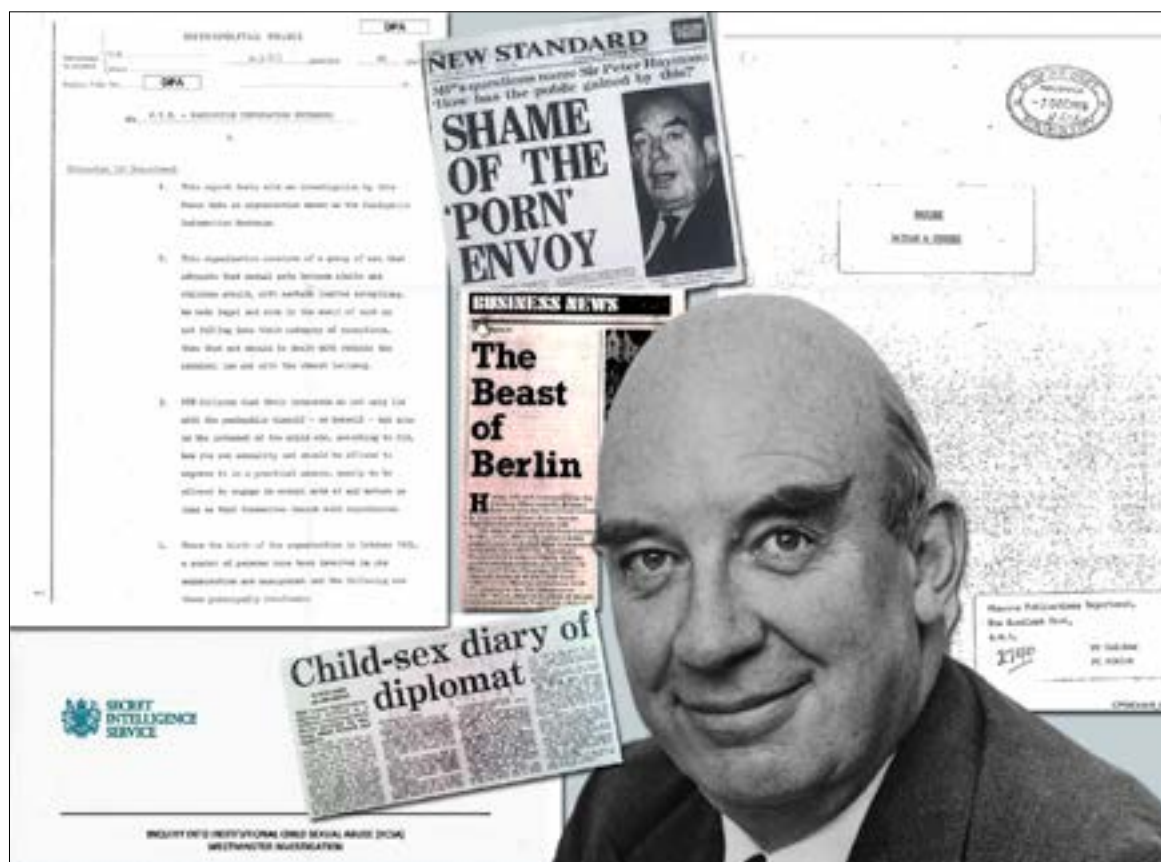
When Hayman’s identity was revealed, he visited Collins and his partner in Scotland Yard and offered them £25,000 each to drop the case. They refused.

Collins said he had a telephone call from Sir David Napley, who was the president of the Law Society, as well as being Hayman’s solicitor.

Napley wanted to know who at the DPP’s office was dealing with the case of Hayman.

After Collins stalled, Napley said he would speak to the DPP himself.

The day after Napley’s telephone call, Collins told the inquiry, his chief inspector told him Hayman



SPY PETER Hayman escaped justice

was going to be cautioned. In the inquiry a lawyer said to Collins, “You’ve got statements there saying that a Mr Wardell had sadistic material connected with the description of sexual offences on children which he exchanged with Hayman.”

Collins said, “Wardell was a bus inspector.

“He didn’t have Sir David Napley, did he?

“He was prosecuted for exactly the self-same material that Hayman

had.” The lawyer asked, “The way you see it, Mr Collins, it was Sir Thomas Hetherington doing a deal with Sir David Napley in relation to Sir Peter Hayman?”

Collins replied, “Best club in the world, isn’t it: three knights of the realm? You know, not bad, is it?”

Collins added that while Hayman’s lawyer said he was suicidal, Hayman appeared as a contestant on Mastermind shortly afterwards. Jeremy Naunton, a

solicitor who worked on the case in the DPP’s office, confirmed the private meeting at the DPP and the cover-up to the inquiry.

Hayman was convicted of gross indecency in 1984, and died in 1992.

A note in Hayman’s DPP file records, “It seems no harm has been done to anyone.”

More information about the ongoing inquiry can be found online at bit.ly/CSAInquiry

Investigations against powerful were dropped despite evidence

THE POLICE pet watchdog, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), began looking at police work in abuse cases from the 1970s onwards.

It began investigations after complaints from retired officers in 2014 and 2015, including from Bryan Collins.

These cops claimed that evidence had been suppressed in 37 investigations into influential people.

After an “extensive”

review, the IOPC concluded that in 36 of 37 cases “no sufficient evidence” existed “to support allegations of misconduct”.

It said the one outstanding matter could not be pursued as the officer in the case had died.

The IOPC’s decisions to abandon investigations came despite a number of powerful examples.

Robert Glen, a former head of Scotland Yard’s vice squad, revealed that



Police did not arrest serial abuser Liberal MP Cyril Smith

details of Liberal MP Cyril Smith’s offending had come from one of his sergeants. He told the inquiry, “It was quite clear there was real evidence to suggest Cyril Smith was involved in some sort of obscenity with young boys.

“He was seen in the company of young boys; seen entering a property.”

Glen said he sought permission for an arrest warrant from Chief Supt Neil Diver, who was the senior office in charge at the time.

Glen said, “He was angry, he turned round and said I should never have got involved in it—it was far too sensitive and would cause political upheaval and we were told to stop.”

Coincidentally, Catherine Roper of the Met and Christopher Mahaffey of the “Independent” Office for Police Conduct attended the inquiry last week.

They sat together to give evidence in the witness box.

IN BRIEF

Workers engineer a 24-hour walkout

WORKERS AT an engineering firm were set to strike on Wednesday to fight for a better pay offer.

Over 90 Unite members at TSP Engineering in Cumbria were due to walk out for 24 hours after rejecting a lump sum by 96 percent.

Strikers include crane drivers, electricians, fitters, machinists, mechanics, platers and welders.

Seafarers sail into historic action

SEAFARERS COULD be headed for strikes at Trinity House—the firm responsible for lighthouses and marine safety.

The Unite union members are fighting seven years of below-inflation pay rises and pay freezes.

The 34 workers are based at three lighthouse tenders in Essex and Swansea. Union members voted by 90 percent for strikes—which would be the first walkouts in Trinity Houses's 505 year history.

Workers were due to receive a six percent increase three years ago but bosses backtracked after the transport ministry vetoed it.

Miles Hubbard, Unite regional officer, said workers “maintain buoyage and seamarks which are essential for the wellbeing of mariners in British waters”.

Winning pay like it's going out of fashion

CLEANERS AT Chanel have won a 10 percent pay rise following a vote for strikes.

But they plan to go ahead with the planned strike until they win the London Living Wage of £10.55 an hour.

Other demands include decreased workloads, the implementation of health and safety legislation, and that workers receive their wages by bank transfer not cheque.

The workers are members of the United Voices of the World trade union.

Housing activists build a movement

HOUSING campaigners came together in London on Saturday to discuss the links between housing and health.

Speakers included academics and activists.

Raquel Rolnik, United Nations special rapporteur on housing, attended and slammed the Tory government's austerity.

“We must stop and scrap Universal Credit and issue a radical rebuke to the rich who only see housing as a commodity,” said Ellen Clifford from Dpac.

Guardian newspaper columnist Dawn Foster said, “Our arguments are winning—that housing should be a right and for a national council house building programme.”

EDUCATION



PARENTS, CHILDREN, teachers and governors rallied together

Cambridge march to defy school cutbacks

by PAULA CHAMPION

SOME 700 parents, children, teachers and governors turned out in Cambridge after school on Monday to protest about school funding cuts.

The demo was organised by parents at St Matthews Primary School.

They were enraged to hear from their head teacher about the crisis the school was facing due to government cuts.

The head teacher—along with many others across the

country—had sent a letter to parents.

It outlined the schools' attempts to lobby government to acknowledge the funding crisis and its impact on children's education.

The fact that Damian Hinds, education secretary, had ignored their requests to meet has driven them to take campaigning to the streets.

People marched through Cambridge city centre and the atmosphere was vibrant and angry.

Children, teachers and

education union voices were heard describing the impact of cuts.

These include half day closures, cuts in Special Education Needs provision, and nursery schools threatened with complete closure.

There was also a call to make education top of the campaigning agenda come a general election.

There was a mood of resistance and unity, and a determination that further action would be necessary to fight these vicious cuts.

SCOTLAND

EIS-FELA strikes and results boycott

THOUSANDS OF college lecturers in Scotland are set for an escalation of their pay dispute.

Members of the EIS Further Education Lecturers' Association (EIS-FELA) union have already held four days of strikes.

In a ballot which closed last week, lecturers overwhelmingly voted in favour of action short of strikes including a results boycott.

More than 54 percent of EIS-FELA members voted in the ballot with nearly 90 percent voting to escalate.

It involves a refusal to record student results and a withdrawal of goodwill.

John Gribben, director of employment services at



Colleges Scotland Employers' Association, said that “by withholding assessment results, the EIS-FELA will wreak havoc with students' life opportunities”.

But lecturers are standing up for quality education.

Union leaders have also announced three more days of strike—8, 15 and 16 May.

EIS general secretary Larry Flanagan said, “Scotland's college lecturers have shown their continuing clear support for the EIS-FELA campaign to secure a fair cost of living pay rise.”

Lecturers have not had a cost of living pay rise for nearly three years.

They fought for and won harmonised equal pay across the sector, but management now want them to pay for that by holding down future increases.

The present offer amounts to 2 percent over three years and worse terms and conditions.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Fight attacks in Bradford

A BRADFORD Academy Trust, Bradford Diocesan Academies Trust (BDAT), wants to rip up teachers' conditions in its 17 schools.

Talks at the Acas conciliation service have broken down with no agreement.

And BDAT has now issued staff contracts with a deadline of 30 April to sign.

If workers do not sign, BDAT will seek to dismiss them on 31 August and then offer new contracts to start in September. Unions have

instructed members not to sign.

The NEU and NASUWT unions, and probably Unison and the GMB unions, are planning an indicative ballot for strike action.

Please encourage the Bradford teachers in their fightback by signing their petition and please circulate it widely via your social media.

A Bradford teacher and NEU member

● Sign the petition at bit.ly/BDATAttack

ANTI-ACADEMIES



Time to celebrate

Southfield school victory

WORKERS AT Southfield Primary school in Ealing, west London, have stopped their school from becoming an academy after threatening to strike.

The NEU union members balloted for strikes after school governors announced that they wanted the school to join the Knowledge Schools Trust.

A statement from Southfield NEU members said, “We believe in education for all, not just the chosen few. So we

rallied together to fight this decision. We fought back!

“We had a ballot, met with parents and decided we were prepared to strike to save our children's education. We wouldn't have achieved this if we hadn't stuck together.”

Workers had won support from Labour MP Rupa Huq, councillor Yvonne Johnson and Julian Bell, leader of Ealing Council.

The result shows that it is possible to stop academisation and privatisation in schools.

PRIVATISATION

Outsource fightback

UP TO a hundred students and workers protested on Tuesday of last week at Goldsmiths university, south London, to demand outsourced workers be brought in house.

Cleaners and security guards are demanding the same conditions as directly employed workers.

“Some of us have worked for Goldsmiths for more than 20 years and we have to retire without anything,” said security guard Raphael.

Workers claim that the management of the CIS firm which employs them prevents them from eating at the canteen on campus.

Management said they can following protests.

UNIVERSITIES

Soas gets strike ready

WORKERS AT Soas university, central London, were due to lobby the university's trustees, as Socialist Worker went to press on Tuesday.

Unison union members are fighting the loss of 30 jobs, with 100 workers at risk of redundancy.

Pay cuts and degrading of roles is also threatened.

Bosses' plans have come out of the “One Professional Service” restructuring process. Workers staged an unofficial walkout in March and are set to start a ballot for strikes soon.

Action would be likely to hit from late May, and the students union has voted to support their fight.

● Send messages of support to an2@soas.ac.uk

MANUFACTURING

Fight to save Honda jobs needs more than lobbying

by ALAN KENNY

UP TO 1,000 people joined a “Save Honda Swindon” march last Saturday following the announcement that the car producer will close its Wiltshire plant in 2021.

Workers and their families were joined by Unite union delegations from around the country.

They included a group of workers from TS Tech, based outside Swindon at Highworth.

That factory employs up to a thousand people manufacturing car seats. All of its production goes to the Honda plant.

There was also a delegation from the BMW plant in Oxford.

The closure threatens 3,500 jobs at the plant itself and many thousands more in supply chain jobs.

But many who joined the delegations felt the demonstration was much too small.

Strategy

Speakers at the rally included Labour shadow business secretary Rebecca Long-Bailey, Unite general secretary Len McCluskey and Unite assistant general secretary Steve Turner.

Despite assurances that Unite won't let Honda walk away, the platform speakers offered little by way of a strategy to win.

Turner read out a “message of support and solidarity” from Tory business secretary Greg Clark.

But gentle lobbying of Honda bosses by Unite and the Tories won't save these jobs.

There needs to be a fight. Honda's business model is based on steadily



WORKERS MARCH in Swindon last Saturday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

declining European sales over the last decade. Its plan currently includes closing a plant in Turkey and an ageing plant in Japan.

Unite needs to raise the question of nationalisation—and lead a campaign to fight for it. Workers at the plant should strike over the job

losses and look to their counterparts internationally for solidarity.

As Patrick Renard, a rep from Honda Logistics in Ghent, Belgium, told the rally, “I'm also here today because I fear a domino effect across Europe.”

This weekend also marked the

ten-year anniversary of the 2009 Visteon occupations which forced improved redundancy packages from motor giant Ford.

An occupation of the Swindon plant calling for nationalisation, with local, national and international solidarity could save jobs.

TRANSPORT

Overground strikes unite

TWO GROUPS of workers were set to strike on the London Overground this week.

Cleaners were set to stage a 48-hour strike from 9pm on Thursday. The RMT union members used to work for outsourcer Carillion before but were transferred to another company—Vinci—after its collapse.

Travel Safe Officers, who work for STM Group, struck for 24 hours on Tuesday over a pay freeze.

Arriva Rail London has responsibility for contracts on the Overground—and both groups of workers held a joint demonstration outside its headquarters on Tuesday.

FREEDOM RIDERS

Five years of fighting

OVER 60 people joined a rally in Sheffield on Monday to celebrate five years of campaigning by the South Yorkshire Freedom Riders.

The South Yorkshire Freedom Riders waged a civil disobedience campaign to win back free travel for older and disabled people on regional train services.

The rally brought together campaigners from across the region, along with Sheffield trades council secretary Martin Mayer and Natalie Bennett from the Green Party. The fight continues. *George Arthur*

NHS

Don't close All Hallows

SOME 200 people crowded into Ditchingham Village Hall, Norfolk, last Saturday to campaign against the imminent closure of the All Hallows Health Trust.

All Hallows provides NHS and social care services including a community hospital and a nursing home.

A petition to save All Hallows has topped 6,600 signatures.

The meeting heard moving accounts of how people's loved ones with special needs are left fearing for their future.

Tory MP Peter Aldous said from the top table that the matter could be sorted out locally without involving the secretary of state.

But his complacency did not match the mood of the meeting, which blamed austerity and the market, and called for huge protests on the streets. *Kevin Wingfield*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BINS

Workers refuse to accept new rubbish shift pattern

BIN WORKERS at Angus council, in the east of Scotland, have announced 16 strike days against plans to implement a punishing split-shift system.

Around 140 Unite union members are fighting against bosses' decision that rubbish should be collected 6am-10pm.

They are set to stage a five-day walkout from 8 April, and then every Monday for three months.

The new collections would mean a huge change in working conditions.

Workers are worried about their work-life balance and the efficiency of the service.

George Ramsay, Unite regional industrial officer, said, “Angus council is fully to blame for this imminent disruption to service.

“We firmly believe that these proposed changes will ultimately result in a poorer service for the public and great pressures on the workforce.”

Alongside strike days, workers have unleashed a programme of work to rule and an overtime ban until late June.

They are set to strike on 8, 12, 15, 22, 29 April, 6, 13, 20, 27 May, and 3, 10, 17, 24 June.

Sarah Bates

HACKNEY SCHOOL BUSES

Action off, fight still on

STRIKES ON school bus services in Hackney, east London, look set to continue after talks broke down.

Drivers and passenger assistants—who help disabled children get to school—are fighting for an extra £50 a week in split shift payments.

The Unite union members struck for two days in March.

They called off two further days of action due to last week's negotiations.

They are likely to take more action after the Easter holidays.

Workers in this vital service should keep fighting for decent pay.

CIVIL SERVICE

Strikers get the feeling for a fightback in Ealing

CIVIL SERVICE workers at a west London tax office were set to strike on Wednesday of this week in a fight to save jobs.

Some 200 members of the PCS union are fighting the closure of their HMRC office in Ealing, which could cause well over 100 job losses.

If the closure goes ahead, it could force workers to commute up to three hours a day or be made redundant.

Many strikers say the journey across the city to the proposed new office in Stratford, east London, would be too far and too



On strike last month

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

expensive. Ealing is one of many HMRC offices that have faced closure as part of bosses' “Building our Future” plan which has already caused hundreds of job losses.

MASS REVOLTS SWEEP ALGERIA

Sections of the army have abandoned president Abdelaziz Bouteflika as huge protests and strikes hit Algeria. At issue now is how deep the changes will go, reports **Alistair Farrow**

THE ALGERIAN regime is in a full-blown crisis, brought on by a huge movement of strikes and protests demanding its downfall.

Over a million people demonstrated in the capital city Algiers on Friday. They fought the police, who fired tear gas and plastic bullets at them.

Hundreds of thousands marched in other cities. A rolling strike wave, incorporating extended strikes, is crippling parts of the economy.

The measures that the long-term president Abdelaziz Bouteflika has introduced to stem the tide of resentment are not working.

He announced a new government on Sunday.

This will see 21 of the 27 ministers replaced, but among the incoming rabble are figures such as Algerian central bank governor Mohamed Loukal—hardly likely to assuage people's anger.

And now some of Bouteflika's closest allies are abandoning him.

Assets

They are preparing to jump ship by selling their “most liquid assets,” according to the El Khabar newspaper.

Ali Haddad stood down as leader of the Algerian bosses' organisation the FCE last week.

He was then arrested attempting to cross the border with Tunisia on Sunday. He had on him a British passport and large amounts of cash.

Crucially, on Tuesday of last week the head of the Algerian armed forces Ahmed Gaid Salah declared that Bouteflika was “unfit to rule”.

In a televised address he argued for a “solution to get out of the crisis, which responds to the legitimate demands of the Algerian people”. He repeated the call on Saturday.



A VAST crowd marched through Algiers on Friday

PICTURE: PA

In a clear sign of Bouteflika's weakness, the general remains in his new cabinet as a deputy defence minister. The noose is now tightening around

the president's neck—two Algerian television stations have claimed he is expected to resign this week.

But the movement on the streets and in the workplaces

has many different ideas within it. There are debates about the way forward.

Some protesters look to the army to achieve change.

In Algiers some called on

the army to intervene “to arrest the gang at the top of society”.

Yet it's clear that others are not looking to the armed forces as the agent of change.

“Gaid Salah the people want democracy not a military regime,” was one of the chants on Friday's protests.

Many people are generalising their anger from a single hated figure to the entire ruling class. “Street pressure will continue until the system goes,” student Mohamed Djemai told Reuters news agency.

Algerians do not have to look far to see the real role the armed forces play in revolutionary situations. In Egypt general Abdel Fattah el Sisi's regime has locked up thousands of revolutionaries.

Workers

The strike wave continues across Algeria, pointing to a different source of power to those at the top.

The Friday protests are a focal point and have brought the largest numbers onto the streets. But there are also large turnouts on Tuesdays, with striking workers and students coming out in towns and cities across the country.

Thousands of workers in the port of Arzew organised a three-day wildcat strike on Tuesday of last week.

They attacked the leadership of the General Union of Algerian Workers for supporting Bouteflika in the face of the protests.

Working class opposition is not only driven by the demand for the removal of the regime. Many also want an improvement in living conditions and an end to intense social inequality over which the regime presides.

Working class organisation and socialist politics are crucial—independent of the forces attempting to either claim ownership of the protests or to put them down.

MOROCCO

Teachers face state's repression

TEACHERS IN Morocco, north Africa, have challenged the state with a month-long strike which shows no sign of stopping.

They are continuing in the face of the threat of mass sackings and state repression.

Thousands of teachers marched in the capital, Rabat, last Saturday and Sunday.

A few days previously education minister Said Amzazi said, “After four weeks, we can no longer call this a strike.”

“This is rather leaving a job without notice.”

He gave notice the state would fire teachers



Amzazi made threats

who continued the strike.

The announcement came days after cops used water cannon to clear teachers from outside the education ministry building.

At some schools teachers are fighting to be employed directly by the state.

This would give them better job security and pensions. The strikes are part of a broader protest movement.